



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jonathan Hernandez, Finance Section

DATE: March 21-22, 2018 Board Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA: 3b - Water Plan Grant Modification
Colorado River Water Conservation District - Fire Mountain Canal
Regulating Reservoir

Introduction

At the January 2018 Board meeting, the Board approved a \$50,000 grant from the Agriculture Viability Water Plan Grant Fund to the Colorado River Water Conservation District (District) for the Fire Mountain Canal Regulating Reservoir (Project). This Project will support technical assistance activities necessary to design and engineer a 50 acre-foot re-regulation reservoir facility (with remote monitoring and control) on the Fire Mountain Canal.

The grant was approved with the District as the grantee. The District and the Fire Mountain Canal and Reservoir Company (Company) are requesting a change in fiscal agent from the District to the Company. The District worked closely with the Company on integrated efficiency and infrastructure planning efforts, and assisted in preparing the application. Both the District and CWCB staff have worked closely with the Company on other funding efforts (including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program). In this instance, the appropriate grant recipient is Fire Mountain Canal and Reservoir Company, as they will be managing the water activity.

See attached for the original Water Plan Grant - Data Sheet.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve a change in the fiscal agent to become the Fire Mountain Canal and Reservoir Company for the Fire Mountain Canal Regulating Reservoir Project.





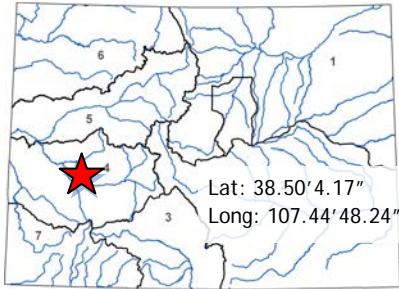
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Fire Mountain Canal Regulating Reservoir Colorado River Water Conservation District

January 2018 Board Meeting
Final Consideration

Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Counties:	Delta
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$3,132,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$100,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$6,000
Applicant Match:	\$6,000
Project Type(s):	Construction
Project Category(Categories):	Agricultural Viability
Measurable Result:	50 af new storage, salt and selenium reduction in Gunnison and Colorado River systems

This project proposal supports technical assistance activities necessary to design and engineer a fifty acre-feet re-regulation reservoir facility (with remote monitoring and control) on the Fire Mountain Canal (FMC), a component of the Federal Paonia Project. The FMC provides irrigation water to 8,200 acres of irrigated lands (480 water users) near Paonia and Hotchkiss, Colorado. The FMC Re-Regulation Reservoir is a critical component needed to create an "on-demand" irrigation delivery system with pressurized deliveries that enable on-farm high efficiency irrigation improvements in the water short, North Fork of the Gunnison River sub-basin. Sources of water include the North Fork of the Gunnison River, Terror Creek and Roatcap Creek. Major crops include livestock feed and fruit, such as apples, peaches, and cherries. Dairy cows and beef are principal livestock of the area.

Support of this project addresses multiple purposes including:

- **Agricultural Sustainability / Supply and Demand / Storage:** Stretches limited supplies in a water short area, allows producers to capture, temporarily store and maximize benefits of early spring flood flow;
- **Efficiency:** Re-timed and pressurized deliveries that enable conversion to on-farm high efficiency systems and stabilized flows; and
- **Environmental (Water-Quality and Threatened and Endangered Species):** Potential reductions to on-farm selenium and salinity loading to the Gunnison and Colorado River benefitting critical fish habitat.